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REMARKS

The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Loney for his careful review of this application. The Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent Claim 19 in the Office Action of January 28, 2003. Consideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments to the claims, and in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 16-20 have been rejected. Upon entry of this amendment, Claim 19 is cancelled and Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 16-18, and 20 remain pending in this application. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 16, 17, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,681,865 to Heine (hereinafter the "Heine reference"). The Examiner also rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,512,310 to Corson (hereinafter the "Corson reference"). The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 13, 16, 17, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,217,821 to Shiner (hereinafter the "Shiner reference").

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,622,260 to Tesch (hereinafter the "Tesch reference"). The Examiner rejected Claims 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shiner or Tesch. The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,132,846 to Wang et al. (hereinafter the "Wang reference").

The Examiner also provisionally rejected Claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 16-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double-patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-13 of copending application Serial No. 10/132,008 (U.S. Publication No. 20020114926).

The Applicants respectfully offer remarks to traverse these rejections.

Terminal Disclaimer

The Applicants respectfully submit that the current application and copending application Serial No. 10/132,008 (U.S. Publication No. 20020114926, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,656,562 issued

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in the name of Malpass et al. on December 2, 2003) are commonly owned. Further, attached hereto is a terminal disclaimer executed by Applicants' representative in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c). Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the obvious-type double patenting rejection are respectfully requested.

Amended Independent Claim 1


The Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 19. And dependent Claim 19 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, the Examiner's rejections of independent Claim 1 and its corresponding dependent claims have been rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed on October 23, 2003. The Applicants and the undersigned thank Examiner Loney for consideration of these remarks. The Applicants have amended the claims and have submitted remarks to traverse the rejections of the claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is hereby courteously solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, or that there are any formalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please contact the undersigned in the Atlanta Metropolitan area (404) 572-2884.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven P. Wigmore
Reg. No. 40,447

KING & SPALDING LLP
191 Peachtree St.
Atlanta, GA 30303
404-572-3507
404-572-5145 (fax)
K&S Docket No. 09824.105002